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OCTOBER
1939

Lawn Renovation
Wm. Von Mueller

Soil Fertilization
Eric E. Eastman

Hollies for Xmas
K. O. Sessions

Time for Bulbs
Walter Birch, Jr.

Problems of the Soil
R. R. McLean

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Lawn Renovation . . . .

By WM. VON MUELLER

It is now but a matter of days until the seasonal transformation of the average lawn from a bright, inviting green into an unsightly deadness of brown and drab will have been brought about.

This is because in October, crab grass (water grass) will have completed its annual cycle and died. Where it has a firm hold and makes an appreciable coverage of the lawn area, it is certain that all other grasses have been "choked out" excepting, possibly, Bermuda grass. This, however, will not necessarily make itself manifest because of ensuing cool weather.

Bermuda grass has a habit of going to sleep in October and early November, particularly if cool weather sets in early. Its leaf growth then is slow, and this growth dwindles as the weather continues to become colder.

The undergrowth, or runners, turn a yellowish brown, and thus far nothing has been found which will awaken it from its dormancy and cause it to "green up." And asleep it remains until warm weather arrives late the following spring.

Sometimes, even in one season, this runner growth "piles up" into a matted mass so thick that it is almost impossible to mow the lawn. With these certainties now confronting us, what, then, is there to do? To the logical-minded there is but one answer — lawn renovation (or renewal).

How should a lawn be renewed? Arguments pro and con notwithstanding, there is but one authoritative formula for really satisfactory results, viz: Rake the lawn thoroughly twice (or more) with a power raker and mow down the remaining bermuda grass runners as close to the ground as possible.

Next, broadcast, as evenly as possible, six pounds of a good grade nitrogen - phosphorous - potash fertilizer to each 100 square feet of lawn area and wash it in thoroughly. Follow this, preferably while the ground is still moist, by sowing from one to one and one-quarter pounds of blue grass and white clover seed to each 100 square feet. One part clover to four parts blue grass makes an exceptionally good showing. Cover the seed lightly (but completely) with screened peat moss.

Then water lawn area thoroughly, using a nozzle with a fine spray, being careful to prevent possible "washing" of peat moss and seed. It may prove necessary to water as often as three times a day if the weather is warm, but a good policy is to water each time that the peat moss is becoming dry on the surface. It is easily possible to underwater, with disastrous results, but you cannot harm the lawn by watering liberally if you are careful not to "wash." After two or three days, two good waterings daily should suffice, but again the appearance of the peat moss must be your guide.

Clover seed germinates quickly, sometimes as soon as within 24 hours if the weather is really warm, but blue grass requires from five to ten days, depending upon weather and moisture conditions. After blue grass has germinated, one good watering daily will be sufficient until first cutting. After the first cutting, one watering every other day is usually enough. The first mowing should be made when the blue grass is three inches high.

If the lawn is thoroughly raked and materials suggested above are used, both as to quantity and quality, and watering is carefully and thoroughly undertaken, you are certain to enjoy a most attractively green and satisfactory lawn.

While this is the most acceptable and reliable lawn renovation formula, there are processes for renewal of lawns which, while not as thorough nor yet as satisfactory to one who wants the best, will provide a goodly measure of satisfaction.

Raking the lawn thoroughly is, however, the first requisite in any event. Hand raking, power raking, "shaver type" raking, "skinning," and burning are the five raking methods in vogue. Power raking is the more general procedure.

The difference between the formula for renewing the lawn as outlined above and other methods frequently resorted to by renovator operatives includes, for competitive purposes, the use of either annual or perennial rye seed instead of

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This Mystery Called Fertilization

By ERIC E. EASTMAN

Fertilizer is one of the most mysterious of all the factors that are involved in plant production. Several generations of investigators have served but to deepen the mystery. The glib salesman, however, seemingly solves the mystery with a 5-10-5 or other formula which he supplies to the more or less satisfied customer in an attractive package for a price. As the principles of plant nutrition constitute an unheard-of science to most customers and many salesmen, and the plants seem to grow, everyone is satisfied and the fertilizer industry grows even faster than the plants; and as it grows developes an everincreasing number of different products and panaceas to delight and perhaps bewilder the customer.

The bibliography of fertilization is as diverse and extensive as it is technical, and to attempt to expound the principles either technically or popularly in one short article is therefore presumptious; though the attempt is so frequently published that its futility is measurable by the general ignorance on the subject. However the undimmed star of hope inspires repetition, for surely each article must benefit a few readers and encourage them to inquire into the subject.

Perhaps the simplest statement of the fertilizer problem is the question, "What materials should be applied and in what quantity?" There is no equally simple universal answer. For ornamentals, perhaps the nearest approach to a simple answer for San Diego conditions is "organic matter," such as barnyard manure or its equivalent at the rate of ten cubic feet per year for each four hundred square feet of soil; and nitrogen, such as ammonia sulphate or its equivalent, at the annual rate of ten pounds per four hundred square feet of soil in several aplications." The benefit to be derived from the application of phosphates and of potash can be ascertained only by trial. The trial is made by adding fertilizer containing one of these elements to a few plants, and thereby contrasting the effect with other plants similarly grown, but not fertilized with phosphate or potash as the case may be. Obviously if all the plants are fertilized there is no means of ascertaining the effect of the fertilizer, and any exceptional growth or color produced may therefore be due to some other factor than the fertilizer, and thus mislead the grower.

The idea still persists that a soil analysis will indicate the fertilizer requirements. A bulletin showing why this is not correct is published by the University of California and is available upon request without charge. Hence it is necessary merely to note that no reliable correlation exists between plant growth and any of the methods of soil analysis. Consequently the recommendations of salesmen, based on soil analyses should be discounted. Alkali analyses and the pH value do have a real significance under special conditions, but these are special problems, and not fertilizer requirements. The application of fertilizers to plants, with unfertilized plants as checks or comparators, is the only satisfactory method of determining the fertilizer requirements for a specific soil.

Fertilizers are added for the benefit of plants, not for soils. As the organic, mineral and biological content of each soil is different, and also since these factors vary in composition or intensity from time to time, it follows that the fertilization requirements are not definitely constant. Hence it is fallacious to assume that a 5-10-5 fertilizer, for example, is suited to all soils, or to be used whenever a certain plant or group of plants is to be grown. Since nitrogen in an available form, i.e. nitrates, is likely to be deficient in our soils, it follows that the application of a 5-10-5 fertilizer, will, in most instances, benefit the plants, since the fertilizer contains approximately five per cent of nitrogen. The fact that the grower has also purchased ten per cent of phosphoric acid and five per cent of potash which he may not need, is the factor that should not be overlooked. If one or both of these additional elements are shown by trial to be needed, it is more economical to apply them as superphosphate and sulphate of potash, or comparable simples, than in mixed complete fertilizer forms. The objection to these therefore is—

First, their cost is usually higher.

Secondly, the empirical formula is likely to have no specific relation to the specific soil-plant relation.

Thirdly, the formulae are capable of being used for the purpose of "overselling" because of lack of information on the part of the purchaser.

In conclusion, the grower should carefully study the labels on the fertilizer container. The law requires that the percentage of total and available ammonia, phosphoric acid and potash be definitely stated. The Division of Chemistry of the State Department of Agriculture checks all brands at least once annually; and also collects check samples continuously in the field and in warehouses to see that the standards are maintained. Hence the quality of fertilizers is standard and comparable in California. If the grower does not buy efficiently the materials that will produce the desired results, he alone is at fault. Finally, it is obvious that fertilization is not a panacea, and will not offset or overcome poor cultural practices and undesirable soil conditions other than lack of so-called "plant food," which the fertilizer can supply.

GARDEN CONTEST

The results of the Garden Contest conducted by the Floral Association of San Diego for the spring and fall judging in 1939 were as follows:

Large—Mr. and Mrs. Hildreth Peckham, first; Mr. and Mrs. Julius Wangenheim, second.

Medium—Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ewing, first; Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Jackson, second.

Small — Lieut. and Mrs. Harlie Brown, first; Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Bryant, second.

La Morgue Litteraire

When, in the course of continuing and ever growing garden events and appreciation, it appears advisable to consult the people in the matter of proper reading material for their magazine, they may know that the editor is as little satisfied with progress towards their personal floral needs as they should be. The gist of that which follows is "root hog," not that the little paper is going to "die", but that it come alive to the opportunities that may be made to go into gardens and really contact the people who live there.

The case and make-up of the magazine involves primarily the local people, sometimes by; hopefully of; properly for and, in the end, wherefore all the fuss. It would appear that, if you who are reading this, are to benefit with the homely chatter that gets to the bottom of many a personal garden problem, someone must begin chittering. In some six months of the writers incumbency, there has been not more than three or four letters having to do with improvement or small material for publication. Month after month the burden is carried by the faithful few with nary a paragraph from those most concerned, a word from whom is spice and meat in building up the intimate service a magazine of this type should give.

Now therefore, be it required and respectfully requested, that Mr. Farley and your magazine be served with a deluge—mail from Mr. and Mrs. You, touching on points of interest to gardeners—pet ideas or theories; facts or fancies; requests for particular experience; what have you. With a reasonable response, a regular exchange might be instituted, a place for fans to gather in in print and animate those others on the borderline. Subjects may be suggested under the mystic number of seven, begonias, roses, iris, fuchsias, dahlias, herbs and succulents, and if your special moppet has been omitted, object—in writing. All these are of exceeding closeness to some gardening heart and ripe for the criss-cross and interchange of

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When Christmas Comes

San Diego High School Library

By K. O. SESSIONS

The English Holly, **Ilex aquifolium,** so popular at the holiday season,, with its brilliant dark green foliage and large red berries, flourishes in cooler and damper climates, and is grown commercially for holiday decorations in Oregon and Washington, and shipped over the entire United States. In San Diego, it needs the most shady location possible, to be even halfway a success. At Mrs. Amy Strong's home, near Ramona, her twelve year old plants were lately seen in very excellent condition. They were planted in a north exposure, and were six feet high. Their quantities of green berries will soon be coloring and will be dark red at Christmas time. All Hollies are dioecious, so one needs to plant several plants to secure some berry bearers. The cooler winter climate of our interior and higher locations is most favorable to their growth.

Near the front entrance of Mrs. Strong's home, in full sunshine, were flourishing four handsome specimens of **Ilex cornuta,** Chinese Holly. They were five feet tall, and more bushy than the English variety. **Ilex cornuta** is ideal for San Diego planting.

Ilex vomitoria, a Holly native to the United States from Virginia to Florida, has very light green foliage and small red berries. Growing in the open, it is a spreading shrub, with many fine branches. it is a good evergreen, but it does not have the dignity and individuality that the Chinese Holly has for our gardens.

Our native Toyon Berry shrub will give an abundance of red berries, and the Chinese Holly will supply the traditional foliage for our holiday decorations and these shrubs should be found in every garden.

Fertilizer and water given will bring success and the sooner they are planted the sooner the results will be, as they are comparatively slow growers.

In strong contrast to these dignified plants is the **Beloperone guttata,** a native of our neighbor, Lower California. It is an everblooming small shrub, flourishing in the open, or in partial shade. Its flowers are very peculiar and interesting. The "Shrimp Plant" is not in cultivation as much as it should be.

Recently in the terrace garden of Mat Heller, on Point Loma, two very fine plants, two feet high, were flourishing. Close by, a bronze leafed Coleus was thriving, making a good contrast to the **Beloperone.**

K. O. Sessions

Announcement

Classwork in practical gardening will be given by Miss Kate O Sessions this fall, on Wednesday mornings beginning September 20. Miss Sessions feels that fall is by long odds the best time to take up a study of the principles of gardening, because with a solid foundation of observation and knowledge gained in the fall, and practical points which can be brought out, one will be ready for spring planting. Bulbous plants can be studied especially well in the fall, Miss Sessions says, as how they look when just growing gives more practical information than to see them in full bloom. August to November is their planting time, and this feature of the course can be given in a very practical way.

The class will be held from 10 to 11:30 Wednesday mornings, in room 18 Florence School, located at First and University Avenues in San Diego. If the response warrants other classes will be organized. All who are interested are invited to attend any class meeting. Enrollment may be made at class. Further information, visitors cards and the complete schedule of San Diego classes are available at the University of California Extension Division office, 409 Scripps Building. Telephone Main 9716.

Problems of the Soil . . . .

By R. R. McLEAN, County Agricultural Commissioner

Pepper Leaves

Question: Will you please answer if the acid of leaves of a pepper tree are injurious to the soil? what, if anything, will offset the difficulty? —F.W.

Answer: Pepper leaves are somewhat acid and may also contain some such chemical as tannin. If not used in too great quantity, they should not injure the soil to any great extent, although until the acid and tannin liberated during the rotting process are more or less neutralized, roots of tender plants might be injured. Some plants like an acid soil anyhow, and these would probably be benefited by the use of pepper leaves in small quantities, rather than otherwise.

Killing Eucalyptus Roots

Question: I have just cut down some eucalyptus trees. I would like to know how to kill the roots but I would like to leave the roots in until I get a hedge started to keep the bank from wasting away. Up until the present time I have not been able to get anything to grow around the trees. A.B.C.

Answer: An old method of destroying stumps and roots of trees was to bore a number of deep holes in the stump, say an inch or more in diameter, in the fall, then fill with salt peter and allow to remain until spring. A little water is added to each hole to start with and thereafter the rains will keep the salt peter moist. In the spring the stump and roots can easily be burned out. Obviously this method is not suitable under certain conditions, such as stumps near buildings or possibly in closely built up communities.

The quickest way to kill such stumps that sprout readily, such as eucalyptus, is to pour sodium arsenite over them. The method used is to frill or girdle the bark near the soil surface with downward strokes of a hatchet or axe. Into these cuts pour from a pint to a quart of sodium arsenite solution, 1 pound of sodium arsenite to 2 gallons of water. If too much solution is used, the soil may be injured to some extent, so use no more than absolutely necessary. Stump and roots will be entirely killed by this poison. Considerable care must be taken with sodium arsenite as it is a dangerous poison and should not be allowed to get in cuts on the hands. It is salty to the taste and for that reason is attractive to some animals. Used with proper care it will readily and quickly serve its purpose.

If the trees were not too large and the root system not too extensive injections of carbon bisulphide in the soil over the roots will readily kill them. A few pounds of this chemical injected a foot or more into the soil, say a quarter pound (4 ounces) to the square yard will be very effective. Carbon bisulphide is explosive and inflamable, but if due caution is observed in its use no harm will result except to plant life in the soil. It does not poison the soil in any way, except for a week or two following its use.

Carob Trees

Question: I have a number of carob trees that bear very heavily. It seems a shame that the beans are wasted. Is there any market for them at all? Please let me know where I can dispose of them. —B.R.S.

Answer: There is only a limited market for carobs. Occasionally a few cases have been imported from Italian and Greek sources but they do not meet with a ready sale, except perhaps to those who have used them in their native lands. In a number of south European countries carobs have been a very important food for both man and beast. The pods are ground and fed to stock or made into a flour for human consumption. Of course, it is possible that a market may finally be developed for carob beans in this country, but there is so much competition with other food materials that it does not now seem likely. Pods can be collected, however, and ground and mixed with other feeds for stock at home.

Plants in Pots

Question: Can you tell me how to grow plants in small pots for some length of time and have them keep in good condition? They seem to be all right at first but finally die back at the tips and look badly. —Mrs.B.R.

Answer: With some possible exceptions it is not generally practicable to grow plants in small pots without re-potting occasionally. Plants must continue to produce roots in order to support a good healthy top. As the top growth increases, the root system must become enlarged also. When grown for any length of time in small pots the plant becomes pot-bound, that is, the roots do not have enough room in which to properly develop and so grow in a tangled mass or circle, finally almost filling the container. The remedy is to occasionally re-pot, always to a larger size, and refilling with fresh, fertile soil. With most plants, growth is an essential and if a root system cannot expand and develop, the top will suffer also. Judicious fertilizing may keep a pot-bound plant in fair condition for some time, but sooner or later it will fail to respond to any treatment except removing from the small container, and pruning back the roots and top and then re-potting in larger containers. When a plant gets in the condition indicated above it is hardly ever worth while to attempt to do anything with it.

Red Shank and Juniper

Question: I have not been in California long and do not know very much about the wild plants here. On a recent trip to Imperial Valley I saw two plants not far fromJacumba I would like to know more about. One was a rather large shrub with fine leaves and a ragged bark and an inner red bark. The second was a cedar-like shrub just beyond Jacumba. The latter was, in many places, covered with a peculiar growth that may or may not have

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Try These

Proven New Plants

Out of the welter of new and novel plants that have come to the attention of gardeners the past few years the following three seem to me to be outstanding. This is from the standpoint of interest and genuine attractiveness as well as from that of proven tractability and persistence under the climate here.

One that is not so new that can be recommended for San Diego is the "sky-flower," **Thunbergia grandiflora.** This is a medium-sized vine with beautiful lavender-blue blossoms and doing very well in partial shade. This is very popular with those people who have seen it in flower. Give it a good soil with drainage, in a place out of the wind.

The "Australian Fuchsia," **Correa pulchella,** is a delight to those who love delicate coloring, coming from the land of "Down under." It is an ideal shrub for foreground planting, being in height some eighteen inches and as much as four or five feet across. It has a multitude of very light red flowers with perhaps a little green low on the tube, blooming from November until April. It likes a dry soil, takes sun or shade and sops up plenty of heat if it has to.

The "Canarybird-vine", **Stigmaphyllon ciliatum,** is a medium-growing vine that is very well named for public consumption. It is in flower all summer, a light green, very lively foliage set with hundreds of pale yellow flowers that are for all the world like little birds that have settled on the stems. In a sunny, warm location out of the wind, this plant is a thing of beauty and very easy to grow.

—G. Antonicelli

Miss Laura White will speak at the October meeting on Japanese flower arrangement. She will bring this interesting subject fresh from its source, having studied the art for three years in Japan. Mrs. White taught for thirty years there, serving later as president of an American Methodist School.

Autumn—the Time for Bulbs . . .

By WALTER BIRCH, Jr.

October is really the bulb planting month of the year as more different kinds of bulbs are available than at any other time. The Dutch Iris are in season and should not be overlooked as they make excellent cut flowers, keeping well in water. They are larger and stronger than the old Spanish type, which they closely resemble. Some of the better varieties are: Therese Schwartz, white and pale lavender; Poggenbeck, improved dark blue; Yellow Queen, golden yellow; White Excelsior, white shading yellow; Imperator, dark blue; Wedgewood, medium blue; Leonardo Da Vinci, creamy white and canary yellow; and Golden Bronze. They should be grown in a half shaded situation, planted about three inches deep and five inches apart, either in rows or clumps.

Anemones and Ranunculus also make exceptionally good cut flowers and should be planted about two inches deep and six or eight inches apart in a sunny location. With the Ranunculus be sure and turn the little claws down when planting. The Muscari or Grape Hyacinths are very attractive, the bulbs being planted about two inches deep and four or six inches apart, these little flowers resemble a miniature bunch of dark blue grapes.

Lilium Regale or "Regal Lily" is a very good thing somewhat resembling an Easter Lily, being white suffused with rose and a yellow throat; should be grown either in the sun or partial shade. Put the bulbs down about six inches in well drained soil. Easter Lily bulbs should be ready about the end of the month. Callas: White, Pink and Yellow are also on the list. The Whites to be grown in the shade, the Yellows in the sun and the Pinks make nice pot plants although the blooms are somewhat smaller than the other varieties.

Other Bulbs available include Ornithogalum or Star of Bethlehem, Sparaxis, Crocus, Scilla, Amaryllus Belladonna, Tritonia Crocata or Flame Freesia and Freesias either in white or colors, the white having the most odor.

Outstanding among the Narcissus are the King Alfred Daffodils which really make a grand show. These large bulbs should be planted about seven inches deep in clumps among the shrubbery where they may be allowed to naturalize. Other varieties include Empress, white periath and yellow trumpet; Emperor, similar to King Alfred but not quite as large; Barri Conspicuus, cup yellow, edged with red; Soliel d'Or; Double Jonquils; and Poeticus Ornatus or Poet's Narcissus.

Tulips do well when planted in the shade and about seven inches deep. The Darwin varieties seem to be the best suited to this location. Hyacinths either for pot plants or out of doors in shade, should be planted about eight inches deep.

The soil where bulbs are to be planted should be well fertilized, a good dressing of pulverized steer manure well dug into the soil be-

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Education

On another page of this issue will be found an announcement of Miss Session's full garden classes. Many gardeners, professional and amateur, will have seen this and passed it casually by without taking any personal application whatever. It is suggested they return to it; re-read with the open thought—is it for me? As with any other activity, those who garden well, go prepared. You who have a garden and, more especially, you who are to build and have a new garden cannot afford to miss this grand opportunity. You will not only gain in appreciation of what gardens mean—there will be the fundamentals in design and culture that are bound to underlie the development in which you expect to take pride.

—R.S.H.

Sweet Peas for Christmas

Mrs. Greer reports Miss Sessions on directions for planting Christmas blooming sweet peas.

Dig a trench about two feet deep and eighteen to twenty inches wide.

After all the soil has been removed, the basin of the trench should be spaded thoroughly.

Put in some small stones to help with drainage.

Put in a layer of well-rotted manure, or other humus.

Use top soil to fill trench to within five or six inches of the top.

Some growers mix bone meal with the soil. Use about a quarter of a pound to a three or four foot row.

Flood the trench thoroughly, leaving the soil a little lower in center of trench.

Allow it to rest for a few days, keeping the compost in a moistened condition in this interval.

Before sowing, the ground should be leveled, and the entire area in which the seeds are to be planted should be watered.

Twenty four hours later sow the seeds.

Open a furrow about four inches deep.

Set the seeds about six inches apart.

Cover with one inch of fine soil, and compact it thoroughly.

Do not water it again until the seeds are up.

Cover with wire netting or brush to keep the birds from eating the plants.

Get good seeds and soak over night.

Plant immediately, if you are planning blooms for Christmas.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

At our last meeting, a program of merit was divided between three local speakers, all of whom are particularly interested in the objectives of the association.

In presenting his topic "A Few Bulb Notes," Mr. Albright gave from his long experience, starting with Ranunculus, a popular subject as indicated by the crowds of admirers at the oceanside farms each year. Other bulbs in season are Brodiaea, Calochortus, Black and White Calla, Crocus, Freesia, Gladiolus and others. Narcissus covers a large field and is the most generally known of all the bulbs.

Types of soils in which bulbs thrive will vary. Good drainage is very necessary. In fertilizing the soil for bulbs it is found that requirements call for more phosphoric acid. The reason for this is bound up in the further development of the bulb itself as well as the flower. However, to insure flowers for next year, the bulb, after flowering, should be fertilized and watered as before, because the new flower has already been formed and remains within the bulb until called forth next season.

Mr. R. R. McLean praised a book whose author is Roland S. Hoyt, editor of our magazine, **California Garden.** The title of this splendid work is "Check Lists for Ornamental Plants of Subtropical Regions" in which the names, habits, characteristics and uses of plants, shrubs and trees are emphasized for different kinds of gardens and various localities. Also many illustrations of specimens help one choose more intelligently.

Mr. McLean also spoke of the last state law pertaining to nursery stock and the detail of labeling plants. He dwelt upon the protection it was to both the public and the nurserymen. In fact the law was sponsored by the California Nurserymens Association.

Mr. Jerebeck was very interesting in his description of the many botanical specimens displayed by members. We were most interested in his comments on an article, printed in the San Diego Employee Magazine, he being the author. The subject is "Nature Walks in Balboa Park" and it will be of great value to all who are interested in local plants. This publication can be obtained free at room 270 Civic Center.

Mrs. Mary A. Greer, president gave a resume of the last flower show and took the opportunity to thank all who assisted her in staging an outstanding exhibit.

A resolution commending Mr. Marston's proposed development of the highway north to the county line was passed and will be found on another page of this issue.

—A. M. Shoven.

S. D. Floral Association meeting held third Tuesday of each month at Floral Bldg., Balboa Park, 7:30 p. m.

La Morgue Litteraire

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ideas that gets closer to the crux of a subject than mere exposition.

This is all rather point-blank, blunt, baldly stated, if you will, with few punches pulled. The hope is that our readers, if any, will be stirred, some emotion awakened—kindly, I trust, yet of sufficient intensity to impel thought objectively. After due consideration, will they from time to time, place on paper and send in a notable experience, a fact encountered or one questioned, any bit of tattle that serves a point that should come to the attention of the rest of us.

Hopefully; with confidence; thank ye ma'am.

Roland Hoyt

Problems of the Soil

(Continued from Page 4)

been one of the mistletoes. Any information you can give me about these plants will be appreciated.

—S.R.

Answer: The first plant referred to is probably the so-called red shank, one of the greasewoods. It has a red, cedar-like bark that hangs in shreds. Its botanical name is Adenostoma sparsifolium. It is useful for firewood and has been used in the manufacture of primitive medicines, as it was called "Yerba del Pasmo", herb of the spasm, by the Spanish-Mexicans. It was used, and possibly still is, by these people as a remedy for convulsions, snake bites, cramps, lockjaw and inflammations.

The second shrub you refer to

is undoubtedly the California juniper which grows east of Jacumba in abundance. It also grows, but less abundantly, down the San Felipe valley below Julian. It is, in places, badly infested with mistletoe, this particular one rejoicing in the name Razoumofskya. It is a serious enemy of these fine junipers and is doing considerable damage to them.

World's Bugs Outweigh Animals and Humans

There is a constant struggle between man and insects for world supremacy. Usually the stakes in this war are confined to the food supply, but sometimes thousands and millions of human lives are involved. In medieval times cities and towns were decimated by the "Black Plague," the causative disease germs of which are spread by insects. It is believed that as much as one-quarter of the population of Europe was wiped out in some years by the plague.

There are something more than 2,000,000 kinds of insects in the world, and the total weight of all the insects is estimated to be greater than the weight of all the animal kingdom, including human beings. For that reason the competition for the food supply is often keen between insects and human beings.

In the perennial battle between man and insects, petroleum is becoming an important weapon. Household sprays made from petroleum products are finding wide application to keep mosquitoes, flies, moths, and other household pests under control. Oil is being extensively used in swamps to prevent the growth of mosquitoes, the bane of human happiness in many sections. The larvae of mosquitoes live in water, but they need air to breathe. A very thin film of oil on the surface of the water prevents their breathing, and they suffocate.

Oil sprays now are being used extensively for the control of agricultural pests. Such petroleum sprays are especially effective in citrus orchards. The sprays, while non-poisonous, fill the tiny air-ducts which serve insects for lungs, cutting off the air supply.

Lawn Renovation

(Continued from Page 1)

blue grass and clover. A few use white clover alone.

Some operators use barnyard manures to serve the dual purpose of fertilizer and covering or mulching the seed. This is not a very satisfactory proceeding for various reasons.

Others use a comparatively new-to-the-market steer manure offered by reliable fertilizer concerns, which, it is claimed, is taken from pens in which steers are fed cotton seed meal. This increases the nitrogen content materially over common barnyard manures, and it is also claimed to be wholly free of weed seed. This is a good material, but does not have quite enough fertilizing value. The addition of three pounds per 100 square feet of a good grade commercial fertilizer together with this steer manure is advisable.

Some operators apply whatever kind of seed the householder may specify, and apply nitroganic to serve both as a fertilizer and mulch material.

But whichever of these competitive methods for renewal of the lawn may be used, it is still important to water liberally and frequently if any measure of success be achieved. Never permit the lawn to become dry while seed is in process of germination.

October and November are the most logical months for renovation of lawns. First, because the lawn will be sufficiently established before the rainy season to forestall possibility of "wash." Secondly, by early fall renovation you may enjoy a velvety green lawn throughout the winter season, as well as through the summer months.

Spring renovation proves too frequently a waste of money and effort, since, with the advent of warmer weather in May and June, crab grass again takes possession of the lawn. Bermuda grass, too, begins a flourishing growth at that season of the year, and both tend to crowd out the spring-planted grasses.

Recently, too, a combination of the fungus brown spot and sod web worm (lawn moth) have become increasingly evident by seriously damaging spring and summer-seeded lawns. However, neither of these pests seem thus far to have caused any bad effect on fall-sown and established lawns.

Both brown spot and the web worm invade young, tender lawns, beginning with July and continuing until cool and cold weather definitely arrives.

These are an important argument against waiting until spring to renew your lawn.

NEXT MEETING
OCTOBER 17th

We take pleasure in announcing we have one of the FINEST collections of flowering bulbs

●

Over sixty-five varieties and colors including eight named varieties of the originator's strain of Dutch Iris, Scilla, Campanulata (Spanish Blue Bell), Muscari (Grape Hyacinth), Regal Lily, etc.

Try our florist's strain of packet flower seed. You will be pleased with them.

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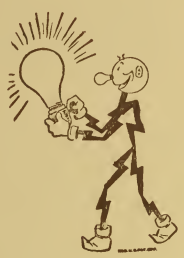

Here's a

BRIGHT

Idea for your Garden!

That Autumn barbacue party is going to be a lot "brighter" with garden lighting to add to the gaiety! And that weed-pulling job will be a lot "lighter" if you do it in the cool of the evening with garden light.

If you would like a lighting survey made of your garden, just drop us a line. There's no charge or obligation!

●

San Diego Consolidated Gas & Electric Co.

ELECTRIC BUILDING
861 Sixth Avenue

San Diego, Calif. F-4121

Plant Bulbs Now

(Continued from Page 5)

fore planting will tend to keep it in better condition. A small quantity of 4-10-10 Bulb Plant Food thoroughly mixed with the soil below the bulb at time of planting will materially aid the growth of the plant. This applies to bulbs in general but not Ranunculus. These should be fertilized with the Bulb Plant Food applied in a furrow alongside the plants after they are up, a total of three applications being given during the life of the plant. It is not considered a good idea to use manure in preparing for Ranunculus.

Flower Seeds which may be sown this month include: Calendula, Centaurea, Cineraria, Cosmos, African Daisy, Dianthus, Nemesia, Plox, Pansy, Primula, Scabiosa, Stocks and Early Swet Peas. Sweet Alyssum, Snapdragons, Candytuft, California Poppy, Calliopsis, Clarkia, Annual Chrysanthemums, Larkspur, Lupin, Mignonette and California Wild Flower Mixtures. Perennials: Columbine, English Daisies Canterbury Bells, Coreopsis, Delphinium, Cyclamen, Foxglove, Forget-me-not, Gaillardia, Hollyhock, Pentstemon, Verbena, Viola and Wallflowers.

Mulch and manure your Roses and give them plenty of water, give lots of manure and you will have lots of flowers.

A good combination spray that is being very highly recommended for Roses consists of 1½ tablespoon Bordelo and 1 teaspoon Rotenone Spray. This combination is very effective in the control of mildew and the different insects that attack Roses, and does not stain the foliage. The rain will probably make the snails and slugs more active, so get right after them with Snarol, Bug Geta or other good bait.

One of the newer Dog Repellants is called "Scram", it seems to work. Comes in powder form so is handy to use.

RESOLUTION

Whereas: It has come to the attention of the San Diego Floral Association that one of our honored members, Mr. George Marston has proposed the beautification of the highway from the beginning of San Diego county line on the north to the city of San Diego and the southern part of San Diego county, and,

Whereas: The objective of the San Diego Floral Association is to encourage planting of trees, shrubs, gardens and the general beautification, by such means, of all of San Diego, Therefore Be It

Resolved: That the San Diego Floral Association go on record as favoring and encouraging any movement that will bring about a long term plan for the completion of the needed improvement, and to further stress the need for action on the part of the city, county and state to advance the proposed plan, and Be It Further

Resolved: That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the State Highway Department, to the County Supervisor, T. LeRoy Richards, and to the City Mayor P. J. Benbough.

RAINFORD FLOWER SHOP

●

You are cordially invited to call and see our shop at

2140 4th Avenue

San Diego

●

Telephone number remains the same — F. 7101

OF THE MISTRESS AT THE COLLINA RIDENTE

She calls her own the "Smiling
Hill."
It smiles because it is her own;
For would the birds and flowers still
Sing and bloom, if all alone?

She spreads their food:
She gives them drink.
She ministers to their great need
That understanding is,
Touching great mysteries.

And visitors here, each will find
A sanctuary to his mind
And rest and peace—there bliss
About their hearts they wind.

Alice Klauber.

Gertrude Dale Evans spent her early life in New England, a climate noted for its uncertainty and severity with gardens. Her health was such that she did not experience a normal childhood and as a result, doubtless, the intuitive portion of her mind together with other mental traits were allowed a freer performance in development. She does not remember that gardens were of special interest those early years, but doubtless, even then the nucleus of a deep and profound understanding lay fallow, waiting only an environment of warmth and sunshine and color and the associations of a mellower civilization to expand.

Now all things come with time, it is said, and patterns seem to work out in accordance with preconceptions of some high power. The woman, in later life, spent many years in continental Europe, mainly in France and Italy and Switzerland. Here she saw great gardens; lived in small, friendly and warm-hearted gardens; digested and absorbed and made her own the thinking and feeling of the marvelous artistry that is an inherent part of these older, comfortable lands.

With this background of contact and observation, she came to San Diego to establish her home. At Plumosa Way and Randolph Street in Mission Hills was found a house that architecturally was of the Mediterranean and done in the typical stucco. One of the first improvements and quite important in the ultimate use of the garden was a wall around the area at either street. This was broken twice by substantial ornamental gates and served the seclusion such a place must have. Inside and out was simplicity of arrangement and excellent taste in the use of garden fixtures and furniture, much of which had been brought from abroad. Structurally the garden included a wall seat with a small pool at its foot, an imposing terra-cotta oil jar standing sentinel. A pergola in season was a glory in long-hanging racemes of the Japanese wisteria and led to a Belvidere which looked out upon Mission Valley. Beneath, a small subsidiary canyon was filled with native plants. It was a garden in the fullest sense of the word, tranquil, with finish of a high order and possessed of that thing of the spirit which makes of a garden a living, serving composition.

The accompanying picture will bring back in memory to garden enthusiasts and others of San Diego, gatherings of the past when open garden here brought them together. The wicker chair was graced then by a most cordial hostess whose presence there but emphasized her being everywhere in the delightful spot. Failing then, the ultimate breakdown of health made it necessary for Mrs. Evans to give up the responsibility of upkeep and the carrying on of her creation. She will be found at 1720 W. Lewis, still in Mission Hills where another, smaller bit of ground takes form in her likeness and as directed from the same chair—R.S.H.

EPILOGUE

She called her own the "Smiling
Hill."
It smiled because it was her own;
And for her sake its smiling still,
Nor does it smile alone.

Another garden, other-where
Has burst to blossom in her hand;
For where she moves, her tender
care
Will bless that bit of land.

—Alice Klauber

BALBOA PARK

San Diego, California

EL PRADO